

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. ATT-027PUS (ATT/2000-0575)

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) An optical packet-switched ring network, comprising:
a node including

- an optical switch coupled to a fiber of the ring network;
- a transmit switch coupled to the optical switch;
- a wavelength stacking assembly coupled to the transmit switch, wherein the wavelength stacking assembly includes a tunable laser, a circulator coupled to the tunable laser, a demultiplexer coupled to the circulator followed by delay lines and a reflector;
- a receive switch coupled to the optical switch; and
- a wavelength unstacking assembly coupled to the receive switch.

3. (Previously Presented) An optical packet-switched ring network, comprising:
a node including

- an optical switch coupled to a fiber of the ring network;
- a transmit switch coupled to the optical switch;
- a wavelength stacking assembly coupled to the transmit switch;
- a receive switch coupled to the optical switch; and
- a wavelength unstacking assembly coupled to the receive switch, wherein the wavelength unstacking assembly includes a circulator, a demultiplexer coupled to the circulator followed by delay lines and a reflector.

Claims 4-7 (Canceled)

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8. (Previously Presented) A method for transmitting and receiving stacked packets on a ring network comprising:

stacking packets of varying wavelengths to form a composite transmit data packet;

buffering the transmit data packet in a transmit switch;

transmitting the transmit data packet onto the ring network via an optical switch;

receiving a receive data packet via the optical switch;

buffering the receive data packet in a receive switch;

unstacking the receive data packet; and

stacking the transmit data packet using a tunable laser, a circulator coupled to the tunable laser, a demultiplexer coupled to the circulator followed by delay lines and a reflector.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for transmitting and receiving stacked packets on a ring network comprising:

stacking packets of varying wavelengths to form a composite transmit data packet;

buffering the transmit data packet in a transmit switch;

transmitting the transmit data packet onto the ring network via an optical switch;

receiving a receive data packet via the optical switch;

buffering the receive data packet in a receive switch;

unstacking the receive data packet; and

unstacking the receive data packet using a circulator, a demultiplexer coupled to the circulator followed by delay lines and a reflector.

Claims 10-17 (Cancelled)